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TNI Participates In Securing Papua, Demonstrating Its Commitment To Implement The Presidential Instruction For Papua's Welfare

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PAPUA- The Presidential Instruction of the Republic of Indonesia Number 9 of 2020 concerning the Acceleration of Welfare Development in Papua is the legal basis for implementing the Indonesian Armed Forces (TNI) tasks in the Papua region. In the Presidential Instruction, TNI must implement three tasks: security support, supporting the Regional Government in providing essential services for the community, and conducting inclusive Social Communication with all stakeholders in Papua.

Under the legal basis, the TNI has sent Military Task Forces to Papua to accelerate welfare development in Papua. A stable and conducive security situation is the main priority that must be implemented in Papua so that all stakeholders and Papuan residents can conduct their activities and roles properly in developing the Papua. This is important considering the ongoing security disturbances by the Free Papua Movement Organization (OPM), which still often occur in the Papua region. The OPM security disturbance certainly constrains the acceleration of welfare development in Papua.

A real example of the constraints, one of which is the OPM murder incident of Glen Malcolm Conning, a New Zealand citizen who was also a Helicopter Pilot for PT Intan Angkasa Air Service, on Monday (5/8). As a result of the incident, Health Workers and Education Workers who should have been able to serve the people of Alama District, Mimika Regency, were instead constrained and could not perform their duties due to disruptions in transportation to take them to the destination in Alama. "The facts on the ground show that on Tuesday (6/8), the TNI succeeded in securing Alama and evacuating the bodies of Pilot Glen, Health Workers, Teachers, and some babies," said Commander of the HABEMA Media Task Forces, Lieutenant Colonel Yogi Nugroho, in his written statement to the Press. Furthermore, LtCol Yogi also conveyed several things, including the implementation of the TNI evacuation without any prior request, either from the victim's family or the New Zealand Government, but was purely a form of humanitarian action. In fact, the TNI Task Forces successfully managed to secure the Alama District area, which had no security forces in the area previously. The evacuation and security of the Alama District area was also an initiative of the TNI in its efforts to maintain security in Papua.

LtCol Yogi also addressed the OPM's accusations, stating, "The OPM's claim, as voiced by Seby Sambom, that the Indonesian Government and Military lacked good intentions in the hostage release mission is baseless." The TNI's actions in the Alama District on 6 August 2024, including the successful evacuation, stand as evidence of the TNI's commitment to humanitarian actions and Human Rights in Papua.

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